



Studies in Sociology of Science
Vol. 6, No. 3, 2015, pp. 79-82
DOI: 10.3968/7120

ISSN 1923-0176 [Print]
ISSN 1923-0184 [Online]
www.cscanada.net
www.cscanada.org

Brief Analysis on the Artistry of “Music Expression” in Vocal Music Singing

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Received 12 February 2015; accepted 15 April 2015

Published online 26 June 2015

Abstract

In this paper, through summarizing the artistry of “music expression” learned and how to skillfully use “music expression” to express the inner emotional world to further analyzes the potential charm of vocal music, it uses the technical skills of sound production to develop my artistic performance ability of music, and needs to sing every song with the skill of music expression to increase the artistic infection and the appeal of art for music works. Vocal music singing needs to “move people with voice”, but what’s more important is to “move people with expression”, and this is widely spread, so the “expression” is extremely important in the music works.

Key words: Vocal music singing; Music expression; Artistic language

Dan, X. (2015). Brief Analysis on the Artistry of “Music Expression” in Vocal Music Singing. *Studies in Sociology of Science*, 6(3), 79-82. Available from: URL: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/sss/article/view/7120>
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/7120>

INTRODUCTION

In our usual vocal music singing and the process of learning, we certainly have encountered that there is no too much problem for the intonation and rhythm, the singing is conducted in accordance with the regulation of music score, and the singing skills are basically in place, but why it is tasteless in the vocal music singing? Such kind of situation is that it doesn’t pay attention to the importance of “music expression” in the singing

and performing the works. I think that, “One fifth of the aesthetic perception in a good music is from the singer’s congenital conditions, as well as from the voice, but the rest of aesthetic perfection is brought from singer’s music accomplishment, musical type and emotion of works and the musical artistry of music works. Therefore, to perfectly process and understand the music works, to integrate emotional skills, and to give life to music and more concretely and vividly express the infection and affinity of music works, can make the listeners and viewers have the immersive feelings”.

1. ABOUT “MUSIC EXPRESSION”

Music expression is a kind of music terminology which is the most common and can be commonly contacted in our piano scores, and it is a way to convey emotions and techniques through the music scores, which is usually expressed in German, Italian and other languages.

We sing and play music in accordance to the music score. The music score is the way to convey the music thought of writers, which is consisted of two parts: musical note and facial expression. When the contemporary composer creates works, on one hand, he records the music notes on paper, on the other hand, he records the ideas, which he can not explain with music notes but hopes to use some expression, speed, tone color to express this piece of music on the music scores with literal symbols. People often say that, using the true feeling to bring out voice can be affectionate and different, and in the process of singing, the singer’s true feeling and expression is the most attractive to audiences, because as the external performance of people’s facial language, facial expression can fully convey the joys and sorrows of people, but the true feeling is people’s inner language to express the sincere emotion, so only having facial language and inner language can infect and drive the whole concert.

More than two thousand years ago, our ancient music theory *The Book of Music* records: “The rise of every sound is from the heart”, and then describes that music use what different voices to express and show the six different moods: sorrow, joy, happiness, anger, fear, and love, etc.

2. FEEL THE ARTISTRY OF MUSIC EXPRESSION BROUGHT FROM *PORGI AMOR QUALCHE RISTORO*

Music expression is the artistic expression form to give emotions to the music, to vividly show to the audience, and to infect the audience.

Porgi amor qualche ristoro is the style of aria, which is the most distinctive works in Mozart’s music masterpieces. It is noble, fine, warm and elegant. Through singing and analyzing this aria works, it enables us to the overall feel and grasp the unique artistry and the music expression style of Mozart opera, which also lays a more solid foundation of music for later singing and playing Mozart’s works.

Mozart is one of the great composers in Viennese Classical School, and he has a brilliant career to create works. The theme of his works is very broad, and the opera is the important core in the soul of his music creation. *Le Nozze di Figaro* tells that, in order to get the “First Night” of his Fiancée Susannah, the civilian Figaro fight against his master, and finally he finally wins with his intelligence and wit.

From the prelude of the music to the singing of Rosina, its slow and deep music melody constructs a kind of halcyon and hesitating emotional atmosphere. The ups and downs of music melody later in the music also express the complex, painful and intense psychological struggles from the deep inside of Rosina. Before singing this works, to understand the creation period and related historical background of this work at first is able to accurately seize the characteristics of mood changes in people’s inner heart.

When singing the song, the “por” in the first sentence “porgiamor” is sang softly at first, and a kind of true feeling here should be expressed with the hum and piety in the high position to pray the goddess of love, because at this time, the image of Countess Rosina is lonely and helpless, she can only devoutly pray the goddess of love to give her help.

Singing this song after carefully feeling the song and music expression, I deeply feel that, “The soul and life of vocal music art are recreated in accordance to the first creation, which convey to the audience through the careful and accurate understanding of singer towards works, and the two need to be harmoniously matched.” To correctly understand music works, to understand the expressing thought of music expressions in it, to attentively listen and

feel the expression of characters in the opera, to sing more with the heart, to learn more, and to weigh and consider more enables us and the audience get the infection from the artistic charm of music, and give people the enjoyment of beauty.

2.1 Singers Must Pay Attention to the Strong and Weak Signs in the Music Scores

The strength of music and the comparison of speed are the same, and are dialectical. There is no weakness without powerfulness, and there is slowness without quickness. It is believed that reading differs from speaking at ordinary times, for sometimes it is very light, but sometimes is very heavy. When singing, it changes with the changes of music melody and lyrics emotion, and the deep understanding and processing of singers towards the thoughts and feelings of works also can appear the different changes of voice and the ups and downs of the voice.

2.2 Aesthetic Processing of Tone Change

For example, the household northern Shannxi folk song – *Red Flowers Blooming All Over the Mountain* is the typical case in expressing the music expression.

The rhythm of the song is quite free, and the tune is relatively resounding and changeable. This work reflects the anti-Japanese life of folks in Shaanxi, Gansu and Ningxia areas during the revolution period, and the thanks and gratitude towards the savior Chairman Mao and the Communist Party. In singing, it sings “yi dao dao” into “yi dao dao er”, “hong jun” into “hong jun er”, “zan men” into “zan meng”, “kai hua” into “kai hua er”, “shan dan dan” into “shan dan dan er”, “hong yan yan” into “hong yie yie” and “ying” into “yeng”. Through such conversion, it clearly appears many padding syllables and pronunciations of Northern Shannxi dialect, which makes the Northern Shannxi folk songs have the distinct regional characteristics. It not only makes the singing language more colloquial, and the tone more full and coherent, but also further enhances the appeal and affinity of the song.

3. THE STYLE OF WORKS REFLECTS THE MUSIC EXPRESSION

Music is the art to express out thoughts and feelings, and a singer, although there are a loud voice with good talents, and a good breathing method, resonance method and pronunciation method, if it is lack of understanding of music, music accomplishment and profound thoughts and feelings to fully express the love, hate, laughter, anger, hope, joy, light, sorrow, depression, gloom, prayer, praise and exclamation, then how to make the person touched and how to make the person feel: “The song only belongs to the heaven, and is hardly heard on the earth”?

Good music works are from life, higher than life, and derives from the emotional expression of composer’s thought.

Example 1:



Moderato: speed tag, means medium plate; lyricism and coloratura melody. *Grassland in July* is a song with Xinjiang national style, and is suitable for coloratura soprano to sing. The tone of the song absorbs the documents and materials of the folk music in our Kazak Nationality, and the melody of this work is very lively, light, jumping, which presents a picture: In our beautiful grassland in July, butterflies and bees fly, and girls and guys sing heartily within a happy and beautiful atmosphere. At the same time, the author is to sing the happy and nice life of our people on the grassland of our country.

In *Grassland in July*, the rhythm of the music is from top to bottom, goes up and down, and moves slowly to the high vocal register, which mostly shows inner emotions with coloratura and forms magnificent and moving phrases. Among them, what needs to be emphasized is that the pauses after the octave in the numbered musical notation, paying attention to the romantic charm conveyed by the music, and drawing the outline of moving rhythms like butterflies flying up and down. At the time of singing, the throat must be flat, the jaw joint is opened to expand our lung capacity, keep the suction condition, and make the diaphragm bounce up positively, so that to ensure our voice is clean, clear and flexible.

When we sing the descending scale of melody High C, we must pay attention to: keep the stability of the breath, actively raise the palate to speak, do not sing “a” into “e”, tight the pipe support and the support of pronunciation when singing just because of the scale descends to medium vocal register, and sing freely and pronounce clearly as much as possible, so that to ensure the connection of sound, and the harmony and unity of tone color.

Example 2:



This is *Immense and Deep-seated Hatred*, which are one of the important arias in the opera *White Haired Girl*. The creation of opera *White Haired Girl* is completed in 1945, which is the glorious milestone of national opera creation in China, and this section should be singing with an agitato and dolente emotion.

For the music works *Immense and Deep-seated Hatred* in the Chinese national opera *White Haired Girl*, from the characteristics of its style and tone, the special processing of pronunciation, and the artistic processing of strength, it lets us insight into the rich emotions and performances of the hero inside. A lot of tremolos and homophones are used and gradually ascend, so that to launch an extremely strong sense of resentment, and to perform a undulating and exciting emotion with a progressive wave-style trend. The sign \circ above the sentence “The immense hate is as high as a mountain” expresses freedom and extension, so when we sing here, we should freely extend the sound according to the inner hatred emotion, and the sign \sim above the sentence “The immense hatred is as deep as a sea” expresses the upper mordent.

When singing, we must pay attention to these small music expressions, and then weigh and consider carefully. After doing these artistic expression of music, more than half of success should have been reached, and it can be more freely and completely threw into singing.

Example 3:



The national anthem *March of the Volunteers* is Alla marcia, which is written by Tian Han and composed by Nie Er.

One day in Spring in 1934, Tian Han wrote an artistic script on the theme of resisting Japan and guarding the country. This is a song to express the characters of perseverance for the Chinese nation, and to show the dignity of the motherland on unity and resisting the enemy, and it is also a revolutionary song of real Chinese people’s heroic spirit. This is also the last masterpiece of Mr. Nie Er in his short life.

When singing, we should notice that this is a national anthem with an alla Marcia style, so we should express this song in the singing form of generosity and infuriation, and notice that there is a sign > on the sentence “Chinese nation reaches”. This is a sign of fortis, and is also a music expression, so we should pay special attention to it when singing, for it shows that the voice should be more positive and forceful when we sing here.

Only paying attention to the use of music expression in the works can we better express the song.

Example 4:



4. CON AMORE AND AMABILE

The music works *A Glass of Mellow Wine* is a song described love in China’s Uighur Nationality, and is an ethnic folk music of our centuried and beautiful Xinjiang. The ethnic folk music of Xinjiang in China also can be regarded as one of the shining pearls in the Chinese national music culture. In Xinjiang songs with ethnic style

in modern China can fully embody the sincere emotion of minority people in Xinjiang, the hopes towards their homes and better life, and the strong love towards the great mountains and rivers in our motherland.

When singing this song, a picture should be emerged in the mind: Uyghur young man plays the tomtom , takes sweet fruits, and shakes shoulders to dance in the gobi desert and to expresses his love in the heart to his beloved girl, and then our thought should fly to the beautiful Xinjiang. Only has such rich emotion can the music expression of *A Glass of Mellow Wine* be perfectly reflected.

It is remembered that the vocal music educationalist Mr. Xue Liang once had said: “If we do not know anything about a works, or know litter, so we can not really understand the work, and also can not reach the state of artistic expression”. When a works presents in front of us, we should not rush to sing the musical notation, but should firstly look up the related background and information of the works, maximally grasp the work, and have a thorough grasp of the musical and artistic works. Only on the basis of completely and accurately understand the genre and style of the work can we know what kind of sound is more appropriate and more suitable for the actual content and true feelings of the musical and artistic works. Every musical and artistic works has its own unique artistic style, so we must follow the basic style of the works.

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